



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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Burundi

Grenade Hurled at Rwandan Refugee Convoy

AB0804191695 Paris AFP in English 1707 GMT
8 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bujumbura, April 8 (AFP)—A grenade was thrown Saturday [8 April] at a truck carrying Rwandan Hutu refugees in northern Burundi, injuring seven, forcing the suspension of a refugee transfer operation, the United Nations said.

The truck was part of a convoy bringing Hutus back to a refugee camp from a makeshift facility on the road to the border with Tanzania.

Tens of thousands had tried to flee to that neighboring country over the past few weeks because of rising ethnic violence in Burundi, but Tanzania shut its border, saying it already had 700,000 refugees and could not cope with more.

Relief agencies said they had convinced 30,000 of those stuck in the transit camp to return to their refugee camp.

On Saturday a total of 1,500 refugees had made it back to the Magara refugee camp when a grenade was hurled at a truck that was still on the road.

The attack forced a suspension of the whole operation, the regional coordinator of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Shelly Peterman, told AFP. The agency asked the Burundian military to try to provide better security for the returning trucks, she said.

Hundreds of thousands of Rwandans from the majority Hutu tribe fled to south Burundi last July when Tutsi-led rebels seized power in Rwanda after three months of ethnic carnage that left more than half a million people dead. Most of those killed were Tutsis and Hutu moderates targeted by Hutu extremists.

Chad

Transition Council Names New Prime Minister

AB0804195495 Paris AFP in English 1558 GMT
8 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ndjamen, April 8 (AFP)—Chad's acting parliament on Saturday [8 April] named Djimasta Koibla prime minister, replacing Delwa Kassire Koumakoye who resigned in March after parliament extended a pre-election transition period by a year.

The Higher Transitional Council, or acting parliament, on March 30 agreed to extend the "transition period," maintaining President Idriss Deby in power and postponing free presidential and parliamentary polls which had been due to take place on Sunday.

Last Monday, the appeal court in the capital Ndjamen annulled a census organized in February by the Chadian Government to establish voters' lists prior to elections.

Koibla, 45, the executive secretary of Union for Democracy and the Republic, played a major role in the organization of the National Sovereign Conference which in 1993 agreed the transition to democracy in the semi-desert central African country.

Djimasta Says 'Elections' Main Goal

LD0904165195 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Koibla Djimasta is the new Chadian prime minister. He was elected yesterday by the Higher Transitional Council, the provisional parliament, which came down two weeks ago for the resignation of the previous prime minister, Kassire Koumakoye.

Seven other candidates were running, but Koibla Djimasta was elected in the first round with 36 votes out of 54.

The new prime minister has set himself the goal of completing the transitional process in Chad. This is what he told our correspondent in N'Djamena, Dieudonne Djonabaye:

[Begin recording] [Djimasta] My main ambition is to take the Chadians to the elections. What have the Chadians been awaiting since the democratic process was begun in our country? What is the objective of the democratic process? It is to proceed with elections in order to establish our definitive institutions. I (?will move) toward the organization of the elections and, together with the CENI [Independent National Electoral Commission], which is being set up, I will rapidly get in touch with that body in order to see what timetable they are going to agree on, and once this has been done I will strive to recommend that the government should do its utmost and put the means at the disposal of this body so that there can be elections rapidly.

[Djonabaye] How do you intend to deal with the contradictions that existed yesterday between your party, [word indistinct] the Union for Democracy and the Republic, and the interests of the head of state with his party, the MPS [Patriotic Salvation Movement]?

[Djimasta] Insofar as I have a state responsibility, insofar as, as the prime minister, I am seen as a referee, I must stand back from my party and encourage all those who want to take part in the competition by giving them every opportunity to ensure that there is a competition where the referee will (?not) lean Left or Right. I am now in the Center. [end recording] [Announcer] That was Koibla Djimasta, the new Chadian prime minister.

Rwanda

Defense Minister Says Burundi To Attack Rwanda

BR1004082795 Brussels LE SOIR in French 7 Apr 95 p 2

[Interview with Vice President and Defense Minister Paul Kagame by Colette Braeckman; place and date not given: "About Security and Reconciliation in Rwanda"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted]
[Braeckman] How do you explain the real fear prevailing among the Hutu population?

[Kagame] There are several ways of analyzing this phenomenon. The first explanation is that this fear may be justifiable. Many people know that they committed crimes or let them be committed, and they are afraid of being held responsible for them. The second explanation is a long story of intoxication. The people have always been told that the Tutsis were dangerous and that they wanted power.

I can see that today attention has shifted from the reality of genocide and its consequences to fears and guarantees of safety demanded by, among others, people who played a role in the long and painful history of this country. Having said that, there is no justification for this fear.

[Braeckman] Do you not think so? There has been an upsurge in arrests that is scaring everyone, jails are bursting, and so forth.

[Kagame] Bearing in mind what happened in this country, could you imagine that there would not be many arrests or that we could close our eyes to what happened? I used to think that the number of victims was less than 1 million. Today, after seeing so many common graves—indeed mass graves—I think that this number is unrealistically low. How did these people die? Not from an earthquake. People killed with their bare hands here. There must be guilty parties. Where are they?

[Braeckman] Nevertheless, in some cases the accusations are not very well substantiated.

[Kagame] International public opinion should understand our difficulties: Everyone knows how hard it is to get the justice system working again. We also have to look at the other side of things, from the victims' point of view. I think that for a year now the victims have demonstrated a lot of restraint and patience. I can understand that they are now asking what the government is doing. If we do not take account of the view of the victims, then we are laying the foundations for vengeance. Similarly, the trials must be well prepared, because if people are released without proper consideration due to lack of sufficient evidence, they risk being exposed to acts of vengeance, and that is something we want to avoid at all costs.

There is no doubt that the arrest of certain allegedly guilty parties, including in Europe, could alleviate the tension here. That is why we have turned to the international court. But it works so slowly...

[Braeckman] Some people are advising you to forgive and forget. This is a matter of reconciliation.

[Kagame] How could we forget? Our dead have not even been buried yet. It happened less than a year ago. People are asking us to pretend to forget in the name of

reconciliation. I am sure that if we agreed to do that, then there would be a risk of everything blowing up again sooner or later. We cannot bury the feelings of those people whose families are lying in a common grave. [passage omitted]

[Braeckman] How do you assess the safety situation in your country and at the borders?

[Kagame] I am satisfied, which does not mean that there are no problems. Of course, there are armed troops in the neighboring countries of Zaire and Tanzania, but the situation is under control. I do not see how they could try to make an offensive return and succeed: We have already demonstrated our military superiority. But that is not the essential point. They have no cause to defend. As for the countries that are helping them, they should know that we too have the resources to create serious problems for them.

The situation is stable domestically. Of course, there remains a lot to be done but I can see that in eight months of work we have made good progress. Naturally, there are the mines and leaks, but we will have to live with that for a long time to come while we are rebuilding our country.

[Braeckman] Does the destabilization of Burundi not threaten Rwanda?

[Kagame] The main problem with Burundi is the Burundians themselves. They should become more serious, demonstrate greater maturity, and learn to control their extremists on both sides. With regard to Rwanda, I think that there is indeed a plan to attack us from Burundi, because Zaire is very fragile. We have evidence that extremists from Burundi are now operating together with the Interhamwes.

[Braeckman] What are you going to do about the refugee camps in the former "Operation Turquoise" zone where there are still 300,000 people?

[Kagame] We are reaching the limits of our patience. There are a great many criminals in those camps. Bearing in mind international public opinion we have waited a long time, but no other solution is in sight. These camps are on Rwandan territory and we have the right to intervene. The innocent people in those camps must be allowed to go home and the killers must be arrested. Nobody wants to straighten out this situation which has lasted long enough. We will have to do it ourselves.

President, Officials Mark Genocide Anniversary
EA0704205095 Kigali Radio Rwanda in French 1800 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] This morning at about 0900 our country's highest officials and officials of friendly countries, as well as a large crowd, came to express sympathy to the Rwandan people at Nyamirambo stadium in Kigali to start heading for Mount Rebero, where

the commemorative ceremonies marking the first sad anniversary of the genocide were held. [passage omitted]

The international community's role was repeatedly mentioned during the speeches made. The international community was put in the dock. Examples which speak for themselves on the disappointing behavior of the international community, as manifested by the UNAMIR [UN Assistance Mission in Rwanda] during the Rwandan crisis, were given. While barbarousness climaxed, the blue berets packed their bags. After that, those who survived the genocide and even all the other Rwandans were also left to fend for themselves without assistance. Worst of all was that the perpetrators of the genocide were today moving freely all over the world without let or hindrance. Some people, such as the representative of the survivors, went as far as calling on the international community to apologize, together with representatives of churches and political parties who also played a part in the genocide.

Another important aspect clearly expressed in the various speeches was the need for Africans, Rwandans, to realize that the future of their countries primarily depended on themselves. They must henceforth get rid of the tendency of relying on external forces for everything. It was recalled that this very barbarousness had its origin in the seeds of division sown mainly by colonizers.

The most eagerly awaited speech of the day was, of course, that of the president of the Republic, His Excellency Pasteur Bizimungu. Boniface gives the major points he made:

[Begin Boniface recording] Like others who spoke before him, the president of the Republic paid a very great tribute to all the victims. [passage omitted]

The Rwandan head of state, as he did yesterday in a news conference, revisited the issue of reconciliation: reconciliation with whom? Reconciliation must be sought between Rwandans and the international community on the one hand, and between Rwandans themselves on the other. Rwandans, who experienced the atrocities of the genocide and massacres perpetrated before their very eyes and with the knowledge of the international community, must reconcile with the latter, which indeed refused to assist them at the very time when danger was knocking at their doors. On the other hand, Rwandans must reconcile with themselves, a reconciliation which must first of all proceed by means of irreproachable justice. If today our prisons are crowded, he stressed, it is not because of bad faith on our part. The international tribunal, which has just been set up, had delayed in starting work. The fact that Rwandan prisons are overcrowded can also be explained by the large number of criminals. [passage omitted]

What happened in our country was not a war between Hutus and Tutsis as some would say to obfuscate the truth. It was instead the result of a wrong philosophy

developed over a long period of time to divide the Rwandan people. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Prime Minister Interviewed on 'Infiltrations'

LD0704164495 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] We go back to Rwanda with Prime Minister Faustin Twagiramungu on this anniversary day of the genocide. A year after having launched legal procedures to establish responsibility and punish the guilty parties, the new authorities of Kigali would have liked to be able to start a genuine reconciliation policy. The beginning was very difficult, as confirmed by Faustin Twagiramungu to our envoy Chantal Lorho:

[Begin recording] [Twagiramungu] We should have started with those who planned this massacre and those who planned the genocide. However, these people are now abroad. That is why today we are only dealing with those who implemented the plan and who are a great number. Four hundred files are ready. It has taken us a long time but we think it is about time for the trials to start.

[Lorho] You talk about 400 files but there are 32,000 detainees currently in the country, and the arrests are continuing and increasing every week, particularly in the west of the country. Do you approve of this wave of arrests?

[Twagiramungu] We have said that we cannot tolerate impunity in this country. If there are people who participated in the genocide and massacre, they should absolutely be arrested. But this does not mean—owing to denouncements—that there are no innocents. It is true there are a lot of innocent people but the process of arrests will not stop.

[Lorho] But how do you intend to solve the problem of overcrowded prisons?

[Twagiramungu] We envisage two solutions. The first, which I think is the most important, is to find more magistrates. For this purpose we have amended the law. The draft bill amending the law has been tabled at the National Assembly. This will enable us to invite magistrates from abroad. The second is that we have obtained funds, although insufficient in order to build extensions in our prisons. These are the solutions we have—that is seeking help from foreign magistrates and building extensions to our prisons.

[Lorho] Seemingly, the Rwandan judiciary system has not completely been reorganized. You talked about a draft bill on the recruitment of magistrates from abroad. So why did you decide to hold the first trial of those involved in the genocide on 6 April after it had been postponed because evidence was insufficient and the files were badly prepared? Why this haste?

[Twagiramungu] It is not haste. I think it is rather the fact that perhaps the files have not been properly handled. I think it is about time that these trials are held

because [words indistinct]. As I have told you, we do not have enough magistrates. There is only one prosecutor assisted by three people in the whole city of Kigali. It is therefore impossible to examine the files of more than 25,000 people. We have to content ourselves with what we have. We would like all this to be done quite fast. I think we will have to try these criminals as soon as possible, as soon as we obtain the assistance of these foreign magistrates.

[Lorho] So there are no differences within the government between those who are in favor of trials going ahead as soon as possible and those who prefer to wait until the judiciary system has been completely reorganized?

[Twagiramungu] I do not know if there are different points of view on this issue. In any case, our aim is to make our judiciary system independent.

[Lorho] There have been rumors of arms being distributed to Hutu militiamen who are refugees in Zaire, that Hutu militiamen are reported to have planned revenge attacks. How do you explain this unrest and these rumors, which are causing some tension in Rwanda?

[Twagiramungu] These rumors and this information have not been confirmed. We think that there are some people who might believe them, but at the same time we cannot deny them just because we do not have evidence. As for the revenge plan, there has been talk about it for a month now. It was expected to be implemented on 6 or 7 April but nothing has happened. So, fortunately, these are only rumors, which we have tried to deny with all means at our disposal. But apparently, people have not really listened to what we have told them, as some are reported to have moved from the hills fearing this revenge plan. But there is no revenge plan and we do not think there will be any in the foreseeable future.

[Lorho] Are there any infiltrations through the borders?

[Twagiramungu] Yes, it is true that there are infiltrations through the Rwandan-Zairean border, but the national Army is trying its best to control these infiltrations. I think the situation has been brought under control in the last couple of weeks. [end recording]

Zaire

Ministry Bans 30 Domestic Airlines From Operating

AB0704190995 Paris AFP in English 1749 GMT
7 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kinshasa, April 7 (AFP)—Thirty airlines operating in Zaire have been banned from further activity "until their documentation has been regularized", the Transport Ministry announced on Friday [7 April].

The 60 companies operating aircraft in Zaire include 20 that have received operating licenses, five a temporary authorization, and five awaiting inspections.

The foreign companies using Kinshasa airport are not affected by the step.

The decision follows a series of inspections by the Higher Civil Aviation Board aimed at dealing with the anarchic proliferation of small companies serving mainly inland areas.

The ministry's announcement added that aircraft not appearing in the atlas of the International Civil Aviation Organization may no longer be used in Zaire. That measure relates mainly to old DC3, DC4 and DC6 planes still operated by some small companies.

Kenya

Official Denies Guerrillas Being Trained in Sudan
*EA0904172195 Nairobi KNA in English 1413 GMT
9 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mombasa, 9 April (KNA)—An assistant minister for information and broadcasting, Mr. Shariff Nassir, has today denied a press report in today's "SUNDAY NATION" newspaper claiming that he was aware of a plot by group of Muslim fanatics who want to cause chaos in the country with the help of a neighboring country. Mr. Nassir further said at no time during his yesterday's press conference did he support a recent statement by Colonel John Garang, leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, SPLM, that a group of 300 Kenyans youths were being trained in guerrilla warfare in the Muslim-controlled part of Sudan.

Reminding journalists of the noble role they play in the society by informing Kenyans, Mr. Nassir, who is also the Mombasa KANU [Kenya African National Union] branch chairman, noted that newsmen needed to report events accurately and inquire in case of doubt. He accused the "NATION" reporter concerned of persistently distorting the facts from what he says, adding that the report was meant to incite Muslims against Christians. Noting that Christians have lived together with Muslims as brothers for centuries, the KANU boss said the close relationship the two communities would continue to be upheld.

Somalia

'Bandits' Kidnap Ethiopian Deputy Ambassador
*EA0904190495 (Clandestine) Radio Mogadishu Voice
of the Great Somali People in Somali 1700 GMT
9 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement released by the office of Mr. Mohamed Farah Aidid, the chairman of the Somali National Alliance, SNA, and of the United Somali Congress, says that a gang of Somali bandits at 0830 today, 9 April, abducted from his Mogadishu home the Ethiopian deputy ambassador. The statement said that this was to inform the public and the world that a search for the gang, estimated to number between 10 and 14, and who according to a reliable report were driving a white vehicle, was in progress.

Speaking on behalf of the chairman of the organizations currently having a conference in Mogadishu, the Somali people, and on his own behalf, Mr. Mohamed Farah Aidid expressed regret to the Ethiopian Government over the incident committed by a bandit gang. He said this contravened the security of diplomats and severely damaged the Somali people's reputation. The chairman assured President Meles Zenawi, his government, and

people that everything would be done to find Mr. Yemane and apprehend the culprits.

The statement appealed to the Somali public to help find the diplomat and arrest the bandits or provide any information about the matter to officials of the security forces or organizations.

Islamic Community Elects New Leader

*EA0704212295 (Clandestine) Radio Mogadishu Voice
of the Great Somali People in Somali 1700 GMT
7 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Somali national news agency, SONNA, reports that a special seven-hour meeting of the People of the Prophet's Traditions and the Islamic Community [ahl al-sunnah wa'l-jama'ah] held today at the center of Shaykh Aden Omar, alias Shaykh Aden Dheere, in Mogadishu, which was attended by over 500 Somali religious leaders, ended with the election of Shaykh 'Abd-al- Razzaq Yusuf Aden as the new imam of the people of the prophet's traditions and Islamic community. The session also elected 114 persons to the organization's central committee, a 45-member standing committee, and a five-member supervision committee. [passage omitted]

Tanzania

Mwinyi Calls For UN Action on Refugees

*EA0804203695 Dar es Salaam Radio Tanzania
External Service in English 1600 GMT 8 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Ali Hassan Mwinyi has called on the UN to find a lasting solution to the refugee and security problems in Burundi and Rwanda.

He made the appeal at State House today after receiving a special representative of the UNHCR, Mr. (Carol Solbats).

President Mwinyi said the refugee problem in Rwanda and Burundi is only a result of major social and political problems facing the two countries. He called on the UN Security Council to take over the responsibility of ensuring that peace and democratic rule return to the central African countries. The president also called on the UN to ensure that the Governments of Rwanda and Burundi take full responsibility of establishing a peaceful atmosphere that will attract its people now living as refugees to return home.

Other reports say President Mwinyi today received a special message from President Jerry Rawlings of Ghana. The message was delivered to President Mwinyi by the Ghanaian defense minister, Mr. Mahama Iddrisu.

A State House spokesman said the message contains a request by Ghana for an extension of Tanzanian forces serving in Liberia under the UN as efforts to try a peaceful solution to the problem continue to be sought.

IFP Withdraws From Constitutional Assembly*MB0804164795 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1627
GMT 8 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A statement issued at the former KwaZulu Government Building said: "The National Council takes cognisance of the fact that proceedings for international mediation has failed to materialise and hereby orders that IFP members of the Constitutional Assembly shall suspend participation in the Constitutional Assembly and any of its substructures until the present crisis is resolved."

The IFP was demanding international mediation under the terms of an agreement reached last April between the then African National Congress President Nelson Mandela and former President FW de Klerk.

At a news conference in Ulundi on Saturday afternoon, Mr Buthelezi said his party was "resolute" international mediation should take place despite the ANC's view it was unnecessary.

The IFP would not accept a new constitution—drafted by the remaining parties in the Constitutional Assembly—if international mediation did not take place. The party would oppose it in the same way it had rejected constitutions drawn up by white minority parties in the past.

"They can write the constitution they like. Clearly we will not accept the constitution," Mr Buthelezi said.

But the IFP would welcome any initiative to resolve the constitutional crisis, the council statement said.

According to Dr Frank Mdlalose, the amakhosi (traditional leaders) of KwaZulu/Natal had also indicated they would not participate in the November 1 local government elections if international mediation did not take place.

Despite the suspension, the IFP National Council accepted Mr de Klerk's proposal of last week to form a task team to investigate the matter and appoint an independent mediator to clarify the terms of reference for mediation. The council proposed Prof W A J Okuma, who drafted the initial agreement, be part of such a team.

The National Council rejected claims that the terms of reference needed to be clarified, saying they had been finalised in the consolidated terms of reference for international mediation agreed between the IFP and ANC.

The council criticised the ANC for not yet reacting to Mr de Klerk's proposal. "(It) seems to stand by President Mandela's March 25 statement that he sees no need for international mediation which will not take place unless he is convinced of its necessity".

Mdlalose on Reasons for Withdrawal*MB0804190395 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in
English 1800 GMT 8 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Inkatha Freedom Party [IFP] has pulled out of the Constitutional Assembly with

immediate effect. The decision was taken at a meeting of the National Council in Ulundi today. The party warned that it wouldn't recognize a final constitution without the IFP's input or if international mediation doesn't take place. Veronica van der Westhuizen reports:

[Begin recording] [Van der Westhuizen] Last month the IFP presented an ultimatum to the ANC and NP [National Party] and issued a warning that if measures weren't taken to implement international mediation, the National Council would withdraw from the constitution-making process. Today the party's National Council carried out its threat. It said it had noted that Deputy President Thabo Mbeki hadn't made an effort to get the process of international mediation off the ground.

Speaking on behalf of the council, Premier Frank Mdlalose said the conference had decided to withdraw from the Constitutional Assembly, as it seemed clear to the IFP that the NP and the ANC intended to fashion a constitution without the input of the IFP.

[Mdlalose] National Council takes cognisance of the fact that proceedings for international mediation have failed to materialize and hereby orders that IFP members from the Constitutional Assembly shall suspend participation in the Constitutional Assembly and any of its substructures until the present crisis is resolved.

[Van der Westhuizen] Dr. Mdlalose said, however, that the council accepted Deputy President F.W. de Klerk's proposal made last week. Mr. de Klerk proposed a new task force consisting of himself and Mr. Mbeki, as well as a neutral mediator to be set up to forge the terms of reference of mediation, but Dr. Mdlalose said although the IFP agreed to a new task force, as far as the IFP was concerned the terms had been agreed upon before the election and it wouldn't be discussed again.

The IFP's standpoint is clear: No international mediation, no IFP participation in the constitution-making process, and a rejection of the final constitution. This will impact directly on the local elections. The amakhosi [traditional leaders] has warned that they would not allow elections in their areas if international mediation did not take place. [end recording]

ANC: IFP Walkout 'Unfortunate'*MB0804210195 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2044
GMT 8 Apr 95*

[Statement issued by the ANC Department of Information and Publicity in Johannesburg on 8 April]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ANC initial response to the IFP's [Inkatha Freedom Party] decision to walk out of the Constitutional Assembly:

The decision of the IFP's National Council to exclude itself from the Constitutional Assembly (CA) will not affect the work and programme of the CA.

Coming in the wake of current efforts to convene a three-way meeting of senior leaders of the ANC, National Party and IFP to iron differences on the matter, the IFP decision is unfortunate under the circumstances.

The ANC remains committed to finding an amicable resolution to the issue of international mediation with all parties concerned, and in this context the ANC will do everything in its power to help resolve outstanding issues.

It will be unfortunate if public perceptions were to develop that the IFP seeks to participate in the CA on its own conditions. The ANC believes in an all-inclusive process in the drafting of the founding document of our country.

In this regard, it is our view that all parties participating in the CA must accept that their views will be subjected to the acid test of democracy.

Even at this late hour the ANC calls on the leadership of the IFP to rise above party political interests and take its rightful place in the CA in the interests of the country and the electorate.

Buthelezi Says ANC 'Tramping' On Minority Parties

MB0804202095 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1950 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Ulundi April 8 SAPA—The Inkatha Freedom Party [IFP] on Saturday announced its immediate withdrawal from the Constitutional Assembly and warned it would reject any new constitution written without its participation. [passage omitted]

IFP President Mangosuthu Buthelezi warned that the African National Congress was "tramping" over minority parties by pushing for a constitution of its own making. And KwaZulu/Natal Premier Dr Frank Mdlalose said traditional leaders in the province would boycott the local government elections if international mediation did not take place. [passage omitted]

Mr Buthelezi said he was not optimistic the ANC would agree to international mediation, because of statements from its constitutional conference in Johannesburg last weekend.

"It is quite clear to us that they won't tolerate any suggestions from anybody. Clearly they want to write a constitution...that they like. Our presence there (in the Constitutional Assembly) is of no consequence to them."

He accused the ANC of "flaunting" the fact that it was the majority party, and suggested the ANC was abusing its position by "tramping" over minority parties.

It was entrenched in the "mindset of the ANC" that, because they held majorities in the House of Assembly and Constitutional Assembly, "they can just do as they please". [passage omitted]

IFP Threatens To Withdraw From Unity Government

MB0904184695 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in Afrikaans 1800 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Inkatha Freedom Party [IFP] is threatening to also withdraw from the Government of National Unity. KwaZulu/Natal Premier Frank Mdlalose says the IFP's future in the government is shaky, and the party may still withdraw. This follows yesterday's decision by the IFP to withdraw from the constitution-writing process after the three parties in the government could not agree on international mediation.

[Begin Mdlalose recording, in English] Actually, the future of IFP in the government of national unity will be very shaky. We might find IFP actually completely withdrawing from the government of national unity. That is what is likely to happen if people won't take IFP seriously. The whole issue is to get South Africa to go on a straight line and to a proper constitution-making. That is what we are busy with. [end recording]

NP Welcomes IFP Acceptance of de Klerk Proposal

MB0904135895 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1240 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cape Town April 9 SAPA—The National Party [NP] on Sunday welcomed the decision of the Inkatha Freedom Party [IFP] to accept a proposal by its leader Deputy President F W de Klerk for continued high-level discussions on the question of international mediation to determine KwaZulu/Natal's future.

However, NP constitutional development spokesman Fanus Schoeman said in a statement it was inexplicable why the IFP had nevertheless decided not to participate in the constitution-making process.

It was to be hoped that talks as proposed by Mr de Klerk would go ahead and that the IFP would review its decision.

Mr de Klerk proposed that he, Deputy-President Thabo Mbeki, and the IFP leader and Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi set up a task team to try and resolve the mediation issue.

On Saturday the IFP announced its immediate withdrawal from the Constitutional Assembly over the mediation issue and said it would reject any constitution written without its participation. The announcement came after a meeting of the IFP's national council in Ulundi, KwaZulu/Natal.

NP Reportedly Divided Over Truth Commission

MB0804193595 Johannesburg WEEKEND STAR in English 8-9 Apr 95 pp 1-2

[Report by political correspondent Esther Waugh]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Cape Town—Sharp cracks appeared in National Party [NP] parliamentary ranks this week over the proposed truth commission, leading to an extraordinary adjournment of the party's caucus meeting.

The meeting, described by sources as unusually heated, adjourned at 12:30 PM on Thursday [6 April], but resumed later in the day after Parliament completed its session.

The caucus row followed Wednesday's cabinet meeting, in which the ANC and NP reached a compromise agreement on the controversial issue of the truth commission. This followed several meetings of a cabinet committee comprising Justice Minister Dullah Omar, Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal, Constitutional Development Minister Roelf Meyer and General Services Minister Chris Fisser.

Fisser reportedly briefed the NP caucus on the Cabinet's deliberations. Sources told WEEKEND STAR that some members felt the NP representatives on the parliamentary justice committee, which has been discussing the truth commission Bill since the start of the session, had negotiated a better deal than had been secured in the Cabinet.

In an apparent attempt to heal the rift, the caucus resolved that the NP members on the justice committee could make proposals to the caucus after the recess, which began yesterday.

The Cabinet compromise involved an agreement on the cut-off date, the inclusion of international principles on amnesty, and the confidentiality of amnesty hearings.

The caucus meeting was chaired by Environment Affairs and Tourism Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers, in the absence of Deputy President F W de Klerk. The truth commission Bill was discussed from 11 AM until 12:30 PM.

The NP dissenters believed that the proposed test for indemnity was stricter than in previous legislation drafted under the former government, and which was applied to ANC members.

The dispute set NP MPs up against the party's ministers.

The MPs felt it was unacceptable that the ANC had been "favoured" by the old legislation and this would be compounded in the proposed new legislation.

Another contentious aspect of the Bill was the scrapping of the clause requiring that the chairman and members of the truth commission be appointed by the president in consultation with the Cabinet. In terms of the draft legislation, only the members of the truth commission are to be appointed in this way.

When the caucus meeting had to be closed because of time pressures, De Villiers reportedly said he assumed

there was consensus over the draft legislation. This was not forthcoming, however, and the second meeting had to be convened.

The evening meeting was apparently attended by about 50 MPs, as many had already booked early flights out of Cape Town.

NP MP and spokesman on justice Danie Schutte yesterday told a media conference that his party was "grateful for the breakthroughs in Cabinet".

Asked whether there had been conflict between the NP ministers and the party's MPs on the justice committee, Schutte replied: "Not as far as I know."

On the NP's insistence that the cut-off date for amnesty be moved from December 5 1993 to May 10 1994, Schutte said the December date—set in the Cabinet—had not been fully agreed to.

Real reconciliation could not take place without the involvement of all parties, he said.

Schutte said the truth commission Bill was scheduled to be debated in Parliament on April 25 and 26, allowing time for "dynamic processes in this regard". The cut-off date could not be moved without amending the interim constitution.

Schutte said his party had agreed to the December date in the Cabinet as part of the compromise. He added that the NP was still in favour of changing the date: "But we can't move it on our own, it is part of negotiations."

Schutte reiterated the NP's commitment to the truth commission as a real instrument of reconciliation.

After the Cabinet agreed that the amnesty hearings would be public, with provision for in-camera hearings, Schutte said it had been dealt with in a "fair way". The NP had wanted these hearings to be closed.

Differences within NP ranks over the amnesty process emerged earlier this year when the ANC refused to recognise 3,500 indemnity applications made shortly before last April's election. [passage omitted]

Winnie Mandela Attends Contralesa Conference

Address Warns of 'Elitist' Government

MB0704205195 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in Afrikaans 1800 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mrs. Winnie Mandela has for the first time since her dismissal as deputy minister appeared in public and hit back at the president's office. She said that officials knew very well about her visit to West Africa, which she believes has been the cause of her dismissal as deputy minister of art, culture and science and technology.

Mrs. Mandela said at a confrence of the Congress of Traditional Leaders of South Africa, Contralesa, in Umtata that she had been invited to Burkino Faso.

[Begin Mandela recording in English] I accepted that invitation on the strong recommendation of our Ministry of Foreign Affairs. [end recording]

She also made a strong plea that people should vote in the November 1 election.

[Begin Mandela recording in English] ... remain incomplete until you cast your local vote. If you do not do so, the government will run away from you, taking its resources with it. It is very easy for this to happen. The government can become so elitist and concentrate on elitist interests. To have the government, you must constantly hold its attention. [end recording]

Contralesa President Patekile Holomisa pledged his support to what he called Mrs. Mandela's unmasking of the government's shortcomings. He said his organization was still waiting for the reasons for her dismissal.

Contralesa Condemns Dismissal

MB0804140295 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0232 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Umtata April 7 SAPA—Chief Patekile Holomisa, president of the Congress of Traditional Leaders of South Africa [Contralesa], on Friday [7 April] publicly condemned Mrs Winnie Mandela's dismissal as deputy minister and said his organisation would continue to support her.

Speaking at a Contralesa provincial congress in Umtata, Chief Holomisa said no reasons had been given for Mrs Mandela's expulsion and Contralesa "could not just accept it".

Until principles of fairness, equity and natural justice had been complied with, Contralesa was entitled to condemn the dismissal. Until they were satisfied of wrongdoing on her part, traditional leaders would defend Mrs Mandela as if she were "under attack from the real enemy".

Contralesa member Chief Ngangomhlaba Matanzima said the government should "quickly give clarity on why Mrs Mandela was sacked".

He said he was disappointed by the absence of African National Congress stalwarts Govan Mbeki and Walter Sisulu, who decided at the last minute not to attend the meeting.

Their absence was a strategy which showed that the government had "blundered", Chief Matanzima said.

Winnie Mandela Says Media Acting Unfairly

MB0804141995 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0208 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Umtata April 7 SAPA—Former Deputy Minister Winnie Mandela on Friday [7 April] criticised the media in her first public appearance since her dismissal.

Speaking at a Congress of Traditional Leaders of South Africa conference in Umtata, Mrs Mandela said the press had held its trial and had passed judgement following her controversial trip to West Africa earlier this year which she undertook despite a presidential injunction not to go.

Mrs Mandela again criticised the royal visit of Queen Elizabeth and said she could never condone the spending of R2.5 million [rands] for the visit while there was hunger in the country.

Referring to the local and international press at the gathering, Mrs Mandela said they were present to "bay for her flesh". "There are no juicy pieces for you today," she said.

South African Press Review for 7 Apr
MB0704124895

[FBIS Editorial Report]

BUSINESS DAY

Country's Competitiveness, Emigration—Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 7 April in a page 8 editorial warns that "while government's priority must be to correct apartheid imbalances, it is critical that its actions be balanced with efforts to persuade skilled people they will not be disadvantaged." BUSINESS DAY notes that South Africans are emigrating in increased numbers because they believe they are "unfairly taxed, because the education system is perceived to be in decline, because a proposed national health system seems likely to degrade medical services, because they see affirmative action placing a ceiling on their advancement and because they fear for their safety in a landscape racked with crime." Therefore, the government's "zeal" for righting wrongs must be "matched by efforts to create incentives for professional citizens to play their role in providing the expertise and strategic thinking needed to sharpen the country's competitive edge."

WEEKLY MAIL & GUARDIAN

IFP Mediation Gun 'Not Loaded'—"Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's problem is that the gun he is pointing at the ANC's head is not loaded," begins a page 28 editorial in Johannesburg WEEKLY MAIL & GUARDIAN in English for 7-12 April. The Inkatha Freedom Party, IFP, is threatening to walk out of the Constitutional Assembly because the ANC has not kept its pre-election agreement to allow for international mediation over outstanding constitutional issues. But, the paper believes "times have changed, and those changes have unloaded the gun the Inkatha Freedom Party likes to point at the African National Congress' head." The Government of National Unity, Parliament, and the Constitutional Assembly can continue without the IFP "and might even run more smoothly." The paper believes the IFP wants international mediation because it "will provide a forum in

which the IFP has equal status with the ANC, and a good deal more clout than it would legitimately have with 10 percent of the Constitutional Assembly seats."

THE STAR

Negotiating Constitution—Graham Linscott writes in a page 12 article in Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 7 April that the "extraordinary" thing about the constitutional policy adopted by the ANC is the way it "turns its back altogether on the interim arrangement and walks a hundred paces or so." The ANC's new policy "centralises decision-making. Provincial government becomes an agency of delivery, not an organ of regional democracy. The ponderous formula for 'provincial collectivism' via the Senate bears and uncanny resemblance to the 'democratic centralism' of the former Soviet Union, where the Party (and Party discipline) was the binding thread in all decision-making." Why such an "extreme position"? asks Linscott. He believes the ANC and the other parties "stake out an impossibly extreme position, then you rush at each other in a three-cornered version of the scrimmage in American gridiron. After the crunch of collision you are probably seeing stars, but you just might have an agreement somewhere close to where you met." It seems a "heck of a way to negotiate a constitution. But on with the shoulder pads."

NEW NATION

'Political Agendas' of Police Go-Slows—A page 8 editorial in Johannesburg NEW NATION in English for 7-12

April comments on the national police go-slow, questioning the "evident lack of urgency in government to respond to police grievances." It has taken "drastic action" by police to extract a commitment from government that it is committed to redressing their grievances. However, NEW NATION also questions the need for police to continue their go-slow "even after the government had given an undertaking that it would attend to their pay demands." NEW NATION recommends that "if there is any evidence that political agendas are indeed at play, government must move decisively to nip the campaign in its infancy."

BEELD

Multiparty Cooperation—A page 12 editorial in Johannesburg BEELD in Afrikaans on 4 April expected the ANC not to be in favor of a government of national unity in the next constitution, as the National Party had hoped. As Minister Roelf Meyer has said, "the real debate can now begin, and alternative models of cooperation between parties must now be examined." However, "the key word will be voluntary cooperation, as is the case in any multiparty democracy. That will allow room for the natural political forces to determine the nature and content of such cooperation." An "advantage" of not building into the next constitution the "forced cooperation" of the present one is that opposition parties can then play their "proper opposition role."

Angola

UNITA Accuses Luanda of Planning To Resume War

MB0904161495 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo Negro in Portuguese 1200 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In addition to having reoccupied Cangamba, the Angolan Armed Forces deployed well-equipped units in Cruzeiro, Cafuti village, Santo Amaro, and Pedra Alema, north of Herois de Cangamba and Soantumba village. In view of this, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] Army General Staff says the atmosphere is dangerous and is accusing the Angolan Government of planning to resume the war. The UNITA General Staff also appeals to the UN Angola Verification Mission to safeguard the peace process, which is running smoothly.

Zambia

Lusaka Fails To Meet World Bank Aid Requirements

MB0804134995 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1125 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lusaka April 8 SAPA—About US\$800 million from the World Bank and other donor agencies for road rehabilitation have been frozen because Zambia has failed to properly prepare the required road maintenance plan

TIMES OF ZAMBIA newspaper on Saturday [8 April] quoted South African road maintenance initiative task manager and World Bank official Ian Heggie saying there was no point of returning to Zambia to discuss road rehabilitation if no plans had been submitted.

Mr Heggie said the donor community were willing to contribute about US\$800 million for road rehabilitation, but the country's Public Works Department had not submitted the plans, required before the aid would be given.

Works and Supply Minister Andrew Kashita was not available for comment. But a department official, who asked not to be named, said: "We have met the major precondition by setting up the National Roads Board—and has since disbursed more than four billion kwacha for road maintenance countrywide".

While Mr Heggie commended the board's formation, he doubted if it was independent and free from government interference.

Among the project donors are Denmark, Germany, Sweden, the World Bank.

Zimbabwe

'Thousands' Vote in Parliamentary Elections

MB0804184095 Harare Zimbabwe National Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 1600 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Thousands of Zimbabweans today cast their votes in the first day of the country's parliamentary elections.

More than 12,000 people had voted by lunchtime in Chitungwiza East, Mabvuku, and Harare East constituencies. President Mugabe cast his vote at (Chirima) polling station in Highfield. [passage omitted]

Voting in Mashonaland Central Province began with a massive turnout, especially in rural areas. Two constituencies are being contested because seven others have ZANU-PF [Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front] candidates unopposed. In Shamva District, ZANU-PF candidate Ambassador (Nicholas Gotshe) is contesting against Comrade (Mumba Maru) of ZANU-Ndonga. By 4 PM, 13,507 people had cast their votes in Murewa South constituency; 12,763 had voted in the Mutoko North constituency, while in Chikomba the figure was 12,125. Marondera West had the lowest figure of 8,196.

The Mashonaland East principal constituency registrar, Mr. David Monyoro, said he received one complaint from Wedza candidate Mr. (Egypt Monondza) of the African National Party, who wanted to know why his name was omitted on the list of candidates in a local newspaper. [passage omitted]

An unknown number of voters with voter confirmation cards was turned away from polling stations in Matobo because they did not have identification cards. Zimbabwe introduced voter confirmation cards for the first time since independence in 1980, and the cards have been a source of controversy as some people received more than one card. However, the registrar general's office have said the cards are meant to facilitate the voting process, adding that the cards have to be supported by identity cards with photographs of the voters. A man who said he waited for over two hours, only to be told to go back and collect his identity card, blamed the government for the confusion, saying he does not see the importance of the voter confirmation cards if they cannot be used on their own. [passage omitted]

Long queues continued to characterize voting in (Rushinga) constituency, where 48,037 registered voters are choosing between Eunice Patel of ZANU-PF and (Timothy Mukwengwe) of ZANU-Ndonga. Long queues were also seen at (Gwangwawa) primary school and at the district administrator's office. Some of the people who did not appear on the voters' roll were allowed to vote using their national registration cards to prove that they stayed in the constituency.

Queues remained long at most polling stations in Matabeleland South, where unregistered voters were turned away today. Provincial registrar Jabu Mbambu said the turnout was impressive, as evidenced by the queues. He said a few voters were turned away for trying to vote at the wrong booth. Mbambu refused to comment on the confusion of voter confirmation cards which could not be accepted in some constituencies. [passage omitted]

Voting got off to a brisk start at all the six polling stations in Masvingo today. An atmosphere of peace characterized voting in Masvingo Central, Bikita, Gutu, Chiredzi North and South, and Zaka East constituencies.

The Bikita constituency has the highest number of contenders, with two independents, Dr. (Gregs Makaya) and (Stanley Chiipepi), Eddison Chitekuteku of ZANU-Ndonga and (Kenneth Dimatimba) of ZANU-PF. Speaking to the ZBC [Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation] in Bikita, Dr. (Makaya) alleged that his supporters were being intimidated by ZANU-PF youths and further alleged that some members of the Zimbabwe Republic Police were decampaigning him. Responding to the allegations, Comrade (Dimatimba) of ZANU-PF said he will win the elections through proper mobilization instead of intimidation.

While elections were being carried out in the six constituencies, there was no voting in eight constituencies where, among others, vice presidents Simon Muzenda, Minister of Mines Eddison Zvobgo, and Higher Education Minister Stan Mudenge were unopposed.

The ZANU-PF candidate for the Bikita constituency, Kenneth Matimba, whose name was put as Kenneth Ndlovu on posters, says he's going to lodge a complaint against the irregularity. Matimba said the constituency registrar had promised to pull the posters down, but added that the damage has already been done. Matimba is contesting against (Eddison Chitekuteku) of ZANU-Ndonga and (Stanley Chiipepi) and (Gregs Makaya), who are standing as independents. The constituency registrar, Abna Chaduka, said some people who registered before the 21 March deadline last year do not appear on the voters' roll or supplementary voters' roll. He said those with registration slips and the required documents were allowed to vote. [passage omitted]

Commission Rules Out Extension

MB0904173295 Harare Zimbabwe National Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 1600 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The chairman of the Electoral Supervisory Commission, Dr. (Muriawanda Nzua), has

ruled out the possibility of contemplating the extension of the two-day parliamentary election. Dr. (Nzua) told reporters that the turnout at most polling stations in the country does not warrant an extension of the voting period. He also said there was a high turnout of voters in rural areas, but added he was disappointed with the low turnout in most urban areas.

The Zimbabwe National Army today refuted allegations that soldiers at its 1 Commando barracks in Harare voted on Friday, a day before polling started, before being released to go and vote again in their constituencies. Suspended ZANU-PF [Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front] member Margaret Dongo said there were reports that soldiers at 1 Commando in her constituency had voted even though they were not registered in the area.

ZANU-PF 'Guaranteed' Victory

MB0904184795 London BBC World Service in English 1740 GMT 9 Apr 95

[From the "African News" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Voting has ended in Zimbabwe's general election in a contest which is guaranteed to return President Mugabe's ZANU-PF [Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front] Party to power.

Many voters have boycotted the polls, saying the result is a foregone conclusion. One of those who did vote was the former prime minister, Ian Smith. He was turned away yesterday due to confusion over whether he was registered to vote.

Several opposition parties have boycotted the polls, complaining at what they see as unfair state control of the electoral commission and the media. However, a BBC correspondent in Harare says the opposition has not been helped by squabbling over leadership.

Sierra Leone

RUF Rebels Attack Villages Near Freetown

AB0704132795 Paris AFP in English 1307 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Freetown, 7 Apr (AFP)—Sierra Leone rebels attacked a village dominating a major route just outside the capital Freetown early Friday [7 April], defence officials here said. They said the attack on Songo, 35 kilometres (20 miles) east of the capital, was carried out by remnants of a group which attacked installations on the same road some 60 kilometres (38 miles) from Freetown on March 28. No other details of Friday morning's attack were available at 12 noon (1200 GMT).

The village is just off the economically-vital major highway leading east from Freetown which has come under increased attack in recent weeks by Revolutionary United Front (RUF) guerrillas. RUF press spokesman Ibrahim Jalloh told AFP in Abidjan Thursday that a group of rebel fighters was still in the area and preparing for further offensives.

Meanwhile, diplomats said two Nigerian soldiers were killed and one injured on Thursday afternoon when RUF rebels attacked a convoy they were travelling in between Kenema and Bo, respectively 240 kilometres (150 miles) and 170 kilometres (105 miles) east of Freetown. The Nigerians opened fire after the ambush began. Diplomats claimed Nigerian forces killed 38 rebels and captured 12 others. A bombardment of the area was being conducted jointly by the Sierra Leone Army and Nigerian forces Friday, according to reports from the area.

In another incident, a Ukrainian pilot of a helicopter gunship recently hired by the Sierra Leone Army has been killed in Freetown in suspicious circumstances, diplomatic sources said in Abidjan Friday. The pilot was carrying out a routine inspection of the aircraft at a military base in a western suburb of the capital late Thursday when he was killed with three shots, diplomats said.

The pilot was reportedly found slumped from the doorway of the aircraft. Guards claimed they heard nothing, leading to speculation the killing may have been carried out with a silencer. Some 30 soldiers have been arrested, while an autopsy of the pilot's body is underway.

The man, who has not been named, was one of four Ukrainians currently employed by the Sierra Leone Army to fly the Soviet-type helicopter gunship in attacks on rebel positions. The helicopter was hired several months ago. The aircraft is the only aircraft available to the Sierra Leone Army, although some Nigerian planes also provide military support.

RUF Seeks to Halt Economic Activity

LD0704223895 Paris Radio France International in French 2130 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The rebellion in Sierra Leone of the RUF [Revolutionary United Front] is coming nearer

and nearer to the capital, Freetown. It has attacked the town of Songo, 35 kilometres to the east and a strategic position on the road that connects Freetown with the rest of the country. Our correspondent in the region is Francois Picard.

[Begin Picard recording] Our military objective is not to capture the capital but to make all economic activity impossible for the government—those are the words of an RUF spokesman on a visit to Abidjan yesterday. If the attack on Songo is confirmed, then the objective may well have been achieved, since Freetown is located in a cul-de-sac at the end of a peninsula, with only one main road providing access to the mineral wealth in the east of the country and to the population in the north. Already, roadblocks and ambushes mean that this road is only open sporadically, in the direction of Bo, the main city in the east. Despite the Nigerian Army's logistical help and the assistance of Gurkha mercenaries, once in the employ of the British army, the Sierra Leonean military regime seems to be caught up in a cat-and-mouse game. As the ambushes come closer to Freetown, the capital has increasingly come to resemble, in practice, a fortress under siege. Francois Picard in Abidjan for RFI. [end recording]

Warns of Impending Freetown Attack

AB0904184395 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 9 Apr 95

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The RUF [Revolutionary United Front] rebels in Sierra Leone have struck again. This time they have attacked Newton, which is about 25 miles from the capital. It is the closest the rebels have ever been to Freetown. Our correspondent, Victor Silva, has been to Newton today, and he telexed us this report:

The government says it's now in control of Newton after the rebel attacks, which left two soldiers dead and 13 rebels dead. At the scene I was told that the two soldiers who died were paramilitary policemen. Civilian casualty figures are uncertain, but one old man was shot in the leg and a pregnant woman slashed on the head by escaping rebels. As I traveled through Newton today, there were little signs of its once prosperous agricultural past. Just 25 miles from the capital, there are signs that people have made a hasty departure in fear of attack. Poultry, sheep, and goats were tethered here and there or roamed free, looking for their missing owners, who had fled even before a heavy bombardment began yesterday.

At Waterloo, 20 miles from the capital, there were refugees huddled over piles of belongings by the side of the road. Some said it was rebels they were running away from, others that they left their villages because of the government's anti-rebel bombardment. The refugees said that government forces have been stopping them going to Freetown, because they say their arrival could cause a panic. At least 700 refugees, including some from Liberia,

who were in a camp at Waterloo, have moved onto the roadside in fear of fighting between government and rebels.

At Newton itself, government troops are now present in large numbers. I was told that when rebels attacked yesterday, they used automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades. The situation is now calm at Newton, but the Army is not taking any chances, and they are mounting heavy patrols. But this attack on Newton, so close to Freetown, which involved outflanking government forces and checkpoints, shows that the government will now need to use all its resources.

[London BBC World Service in English at 1705 GMT on 9 April, in the "African News" portion of its cast, adds the following: "Rebels in Sierra Leone have said that they will begin operations inside the capital, Freetown, following attacks on nearby areas in recent days. A spokesman for the Revolutionary United Front, RUF, Alimamy Baka Sankoh, told the BBC that rebel forces were already in the eastern suburbs, and said foreign diplomats should leave."

"The government said yesterday its troops had repelled rebel attacks on Newton, 35 kilometres from the capital. However, it says it has sent reinforcements to the edge of Freetown to reassure the population there. The BBC West Africa correspondent says the RUF strategy seems to be to undermine the government by creating general panic, rather than risking a frontal assault."]

Group Formed To Halt RUF's 'Mende Massacre'

*AB0704205495 London BBC World Service in English
1705 GMT 7 Apr 95*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The RUF [Revolutionary United Front] rebels are keeping up their relentless attacks. They have been launching raids ever closer to the capital, Freetown. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Sam Teavah, the spokesman of an organization called The Struggle Against Mende Massacre, called us up this afternoon from a noisy part of Freetown. The Mende people inhabit the east and southeast of Sierra Leone. Districts such as Pujehun, Kailahun, and Bo, which have borne the brunt of the civil war. Josephine Hazely asked Sam Teavah why they needed such an organization.

[Begin recording] [Teavah] To give a direct message to the Mendes and to any other Mende sympathizer that the so-called.... [Teavah pauses] (?It is best to call them Sierra Leoneans), I may not have (?time) now to refer to them as rebels, these are not rebels. I mean, this is a death squad. This was something planned by some people, I mean, just to eliminate the entire Mende race.

[Hazely] But, why would anyone want to eliminate the Mende race in Sierra Leone? Why?

[Teavah] Why? Now, they are.... [Teavah pauses] Let me just go into a little bit of geography. There are 12 districts in Sierra Leone. Seven are in the south and east, and out of the seven in the south and east, the Mende people have six. All these six districts have been destabilized, major towns burned down, big villages burned down, with their people killed, children killed, mothers and everybody killed. And they are all scattered over this country. As I talk now, you will see some people dying in the street. They are beggars....

[Hazely, interrupting] The question I am asking is: Why would they pick on the Mendes. It could have been anybody, couldn't it?

[Teavah] Eh, it is not anybody. It could not be anybody. Now, if you look at the death squad organization, you look at the hierarchy of the death squad, I mean, they are the Sankos from (Sankolili). People have been calling, I mean, people have been calling your studios and all these guys who have been calling, you know, are all Sankos. They all claim to be Sankos. I mean, (?they used to say) that this was a Mende war, when the thing started. The Mende man wants peace. We have always lived by that.

[Hazely] Aren't you trying to tribalize this war, rather than making it a war for all Sierra Leoneans to fight?

[Teavah] No. No. I mean, we are not directing our movement here against any government institution. I mean, the government has tried its very best. You understand? I am afraid the government has tried its very best. Government has been going all out to see that this situation comes to an end.

[Hazely] Now, but some people might say forming an organization like the Struggle Against Mende Massacre in Sierra Leone will mean that you have no faith in the government in securing the welfare of the Mende people.

[Teavah] I may not want to say that. Like I am saying, I am still telling you that the government has been doing its very best. Nobody can do beyond his best, but now as the situation is there are no schools. There have been no schools in the south and east for four years; no medical facilities; nothing at all, and you know the impact of the war will only be realized after the war.

[Hazely] How is your organization going to be able to protect the Mende then?

[Teavah] Ah, well, we are going to take up a mop up operation. We are just trying to clean up our area. I mean, we are going to (?assist) the government. We have had enough.

[Hazely] Are you implying by your answer just now that you are going to take up arms yourselves in this organization? Is this what you are saying?

[Teavah] Not at all. Not at all. Not at all. Not at all. Not at all. We are going to give our full support to the government. [end recording]

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